Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and sixty-sixth plenary meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 23 August 2018, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Beliz Celasin Rende ..... (Turkey)

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1813859

Please recycle

The President: I call to order the one thousand four hundred sixty-sixth plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Distinguished ambassadors and delegates, dear colleagues, Madam Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mrs. Kaspersen, ladies and gentlemen, it is indeed a great honour and pleasure for me, on behalf of the Republic of Turkey, to assume the presidency of this august body.

I would like to propose that the order of business of our meeting this morning be as follows: introductory remarks from the President to present the vision and plans of Turkey for the last Presidency of the 2018 session; statements by delegations who wish to take the floor; and an informal session to discuss the advance copy of the draft annual report.

I will now make my introductory remarks.

The Conference on Disarmament, as the single, multilateral disarmament negotiating platform, with its unique structure among the international fora and its special mandate of negotiating legally binding disarmament instruments, has been at the centre of the endeavours to render our world a safer place since its foundation. Significant achievements, such as the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, are milestones in our common efforts in the Conference on Disarmament to establish and sustain peace, security and prosperity in the world.

Turkey is of the opinion that the efforts towards disarmament and non-proliferation contribute substantially to global peace and stability. The deteriorating nature of the international security environment can only be reversed by investing in mutual understanding and dialogue, not by depending more on any kind of weapons, especially weapons of mass destruction. Our ultimate goal is a world without nuclear weapons. The successful and universal implementation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons is the right starting point for this.

A pending commitment of the 2010 action plan of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty was the convening of an international conference on the establishment of a Middle East zone free of nuclear weapons and all other weapons of mass destruction. This commitment cannot be overlooked. On another issue, the early entry into force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty is crucial for global non-proliferation and disarmament efforts.

In addition to nuclear disarmament, the Conference on Disarmament covers many other important topics. Its agenda guides us throughout the year on the issues to be discussed towards taking concrete steps for the good of all humanity. As I stated at the beginning of my speech, the Conference on Disarmament has the potential to create a safer and more secure world. All we need is frank dialogue and the courage to tap this potential by letting the Conference start negotiating legally binding disarmament and non-proliferation instruments while keeping an eye on emerging realities.

An enormous effort has been put in by all member States to advancing the work of the Conference on Disarmament since the beginning of the 2018 session. I would like to thank all delegations and express my appreciation for their dedication to and enthusiasm for ensuring the Conference's relevance. The establishment of five subsidiary bodies to help us to reach an understanding on the areas of commonalities in the Conference on Disarmament by taking into consideration all relevant views and proposals, past, present and future, to deepen technical discussions and broaden areas of agreement, including through the participation, in accordance with the rules of procedure, of relevant experts, and to consider effective measures, including legal instruments for negotiations, was a very important step forward in 2108. It raised high hopes of progress, not only for the Conference on Disarmament, but also for the many people who had a shared concern over the state of various disarmament platforms. The discussions in the subsidiary bodies have exposed the need for better understanding of different positions; it has been extremely important and encouraging to see that there are far more areas on which we have converged than those on which we disagree. Therefore, I would also like to thank the coordinators of all the subsidiary bodies for the hard work they have put in so far.

Distinguished colleagues, as we announced on 7 August, the first draft of the annual report of the 2018 session of the Conference on Disarmament, which I believe you have had time to look over, was circulated on Monday by the secretariat. The report is currently available in English only, but the secretariat has taken the necessary steps to have it circulated in all official languages as soon as possible. In our statement to the plenary, we also extended an open invitation to all member States to express their views and expectations about the annual report, which was in preparation at that time on the basis of the previous years' annual reports. Following that, with the aim of producing a factual, impartial and objective annual report in a transparent manner, we conducted bilateral meetings with all interested member States and with delegations who preferred to share their initial remarks on the draft report. The draft annual report before you was prepared in accordance with common past practices and based on your remarks as received at those consultation meetings. We listened to you carefully and did our best to accommodate the expectations of all delegations. Now the report before you is your report, since it has been already circulated. My delegation and I are at your disposal to hear your further comments on it.

Having said that, I would like to clarify a couple of issues about the draft report. Today, at the end of this plenary session, we would like to receive your initial comments on the draft report of the Conference on Disarmament in an informal setting. Furthermore, we would be grateful if the delegations could send their written comments by email to the secretariat (cd@un.org) before noon on Monday 27 August. Then a compilation of written comments will be circulated with the assistance of the secretariat and we will continue to exchange views on the report next week.

During our consultation meetings, all delegations stressed the importance of adopting a consensual report. As the sixth and last President of the Conference on Disarmament in 2018, we are ready to hold additional plenaries and informal meetings in order to reach a consensus on the report. We have therefore tentatively included one additional plenary for next Thursday, 30 August, in our schedule. As you might already have noticed, the draft annual report has placeholders for the reports of the subsidiary bodies. According to the timetable contained in document CD/2126, the meetings of the subsidiary bodies will conclude tomorrow. We have extended invitations to all coordinators of the subsidiary bodies to meet once their sessions are over. At that meeting, we will try to explore where we stand on the subsidiary bodies reports. Our intention is to bring all reports to the Conference for adoption on Thursday of next week, or the following week at the latest, provided that the report on the progress achieved and agreed on in each subsidiary body is submitted by its coordinator to the Conference on Disarmament through the President, in accordance with the decision contained in document CD/2190. Therefore, until the next plenary meeting, I request all the member States to concentrate on other parts of the annual report for the sake of better and more efficient time management.

Having said that, I would like to open today's discussion and I will now turn to the list of speakers for today.

Representative of Zimbabwe, you have the floor.

Mr. Mushayavanhu (Zimbabwe): Thank you, Madam President. Since this is the first time that Zimbabwe is taking the floor under your Presidency, my delegation would like to assure you of our cooperation and commend you for the work that you have been doing since your assumption of the Presidency.

Your submission of the first draft of the annual report on the first operative day of your Presidency is welcome, a real signal of the momentum that you seek to build.

Madam President, the decision which established the five subsidiary bodies to explore the Conference on Disarmament agenda items has guided the work of the Conference on Disarmament in 2018, without prejudice to the objective of complete nuclear disarmament, in the successful negotiation of a substantive programme of work. The commendable efforts of all the Presidents of this 2018 session can never be adequately captured in the annual report, now under negotiation in the Conference. It has been hard work, for which my delegation is grateful.

Madam President, my delegation was not able to participate in the last plenary session of this Conference, which reflected on the United Nations Secretary-General's disarmament agenda on "Securing our common future". As a delegation, we welcome on the Secretary-General's input, which we hope will help to inject some fresh momentum into the disarmament discourse. Of course, the Secretary-General's report will be more useful if it can serve to reinvigorate the stalled work of the Conference on Disarmament and help us to refocus this institution away from the current paralysis and towards a return to negotiations. It is unfortunate but true that the perception of the world outside these walls is that this forum has practically become moribund, to the extent that we cannot even agree on a substantive programme of work. As a result of this situation, substantive negotiations are now taking place outside the Conference on Disarmament. My delegation is therefore left to wonder whether the mantra that the Conference on Disarmament is the world's single, multilateral disarmament negotiating body still holds water. Twenty-two years after the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty negotiations is just too long a period to not be making any progress. We may need to introspect and admit our failure to the United Nations and the wider world, on whose behalf the Conference on Disarmament is mandated to negotiate disarmament instruments.

Zimbabwe condemns the use of weapons of mass destruction, including the use of chemical and biological weapons. Equally, we censure the possession, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. In this respect, we see a glaring display of contradiction and double standards in the positions of some members who, in one breath, condemn the use of one set of weapons of mass destruction and extol the supposed virtues of nuclear weapons in their national security doctrines.

Madam President, as we strive to build the foundations for durable international peace and security, Zimbabwe will be a reliable and strong partner in promoting the multilateral norm against the possession, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons. We do not think that it makes sense to promote a norm against chemical, biological and other weapons of mass destruction without also establishing a norm against nuclear weapons.

Madam President, Zimbabwe's unequivocal position is in favour of a world free of nuclear weapons. It is for this reason that Zimbabwe last year supported the adoption by the United Nations General Assembly of the treaty to ban nuclear weapons.

Finally, Madam President, as the current coordinator of the Group of 21, Zimbabwe's door is open for engagement with all delegations as we begin negotiations on the annual report of the Conference.

I thank you.

The President: I thank the representative of Zimbabwe for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. Are there any other delegations wishing to take the floor?

That seems not to be the case. If there is no further request from the floor, I want to close this session and start the informal discussion after a short break.

The meeting rose at 10.20 a.m.

Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and sixty-seventh plenary meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 28 August 2018, at 10 a.m.

President: Ms. Beliz Celasin Rende ..... (Turkey)

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Please recycle

The President: Good morning. I call to order the 1476th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Distinguished Ambassadors and delegates, dear colleagues, Madam Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference on Disarmament, ladies and gentlemen, in this, the second week of the Turkish presidency of the Conference on Disarmament, I would like to thank you for the support extended to our delegation and for all your constructive remarks since last week.

As you know, last Monday, the first draft of the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament was circulated. Then, we received the first remarks of the member States on the draft at the informal meeting held on Thursday. In addition, during the last plenary meeting, we asked all delegations to submit their written comments on the draft to the secretariat via email before yesterday noon. I would like to thank you all for your very valuable comments and suggestions. The secretariat has already circulated a compilation of the comments received by yesterday which was updated this morning. We will be holding an informal meeting to continue the work on the annual report, based on the comments received, after this plenary meeting.

Last week, we also informed the Conference about our intention to hold a meeting with subsidiary body coordinators. Before briefing you about the informal consultations with the distinguished coordinators of the five subsidiary bodies which I held yesterday afternoon, first, I would like to express a warm welcome to the United Nations Disarmament fellows and to high school students and peace messengers from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, who are visiting Geneva today and who are following our plenary meeting.

First and foremost, I would like to thank all coordinators, once again, for the hard work they have put in so far. As of Friday, the subsidiary bodies have concluded their meetings in accordance with the timetable set out in the decision contained in document CD/2126. At the informal consultations, coordinators informed me that the convergence points in their reports far exceed the issues of disagreement. They told me that expectations of reaching an agreement on the reports were very high. Some coordinators had already circulated the updated versions of their reports. On the other hand, some coordinators indicated that they need more time. They underlined that their reports were expected to be circulated before the end of this week. Therefore, although we announced that our intention was to bring all reports to the Conference for adoption this Thursday, we understand that it will not be possible to receive all reports in due time. Under these circumstances, we will try to bring all reports to the Conference for adoption next Tuesday, provided that the report on the progress achieved and agreed on in each subsidiary body is submitted by its coordinator to the Conference on Disarmament, through the President, in accordance with the decision contained in document CD/2119.

Let me now turn to the list of speakers. The following delegations have asked to take the floor: Pakistan and Kazakhstan. I now give the floor to the representative of Pakistan, His Excellency, Mr. Farukh Amil, Ambassador.

Mr. Amil (Pakistan): Thank you, Madam President. I would like to begin by congratulating you on assuming the presidency of the Conference on Disarmament. You can count on my delegation's full support and cooperation. I would also like to very warmly welcome the United Nations Disarmament fellows I hope you learn a lot from your visit to Geneva — and, of course, the high school students from Japan. Konnichiwa and welcome.

Madam President, we thank you for circulating the first draft of the Conference on Disarmament's annual report right at the start of your presidency last week. The draft is structured in the established format and, notwithstanding the blanks that need to be filled with respect to the reports of the subsidiary bodies, it covers all the requisite details in an objective and factual manner. It is indeed a solid basis for further work. We will continue to engage with you and with all of the member States in a constructive manner for its timely approval by the Conference.

The key to the smooth adoption of the report, which needs agreement by consensus, is to avoid the insertion of subjective political judgments. We all know the divergence of

views that exists on almost all substantive issues considered in this body. If each one of us was to insist on reflecting our respective national positions in the report, it would turn into a protracted and futile drafting exercise, without contributing anything towards overcoming the substantive differences that are preventing progress. Over the years, we have established a stock phrase to reflect our national positions in the report, stating that, and I quote, "all views and positions are duly recorded in the plenary records". This approach has enabled us to always adopt an annual report in the Conference on Disarmament. We sincerely hope that this tradition will continue. We would suggest using this same approach for reflecting stances on other issues that are not related to the Conference on Disarmament's substantive agenda items. Our political views towards fellow member States notwithstanding, we should not question each other's suitability to hold the presidency, which rotates automatically on the basis of alphabetical order in accordance with our rules of procedure. We earnestly hope that a solution can be found that is satisfactory for all concerned parties and that neither damages the working methods of the Conference on Disarmament nor sets a bad precedent.

One significant activity that was held in the Conference this year pertains to the five subsidiary bodies that dealt with all issues on our agenda. My delegation participated actively in all the deliberations held in the subsidiary bodies and made substantive contributions. We found these discussions to be extremely useful and productive. They provided an opportunity to delve deeper into the respective issues and to develop a better understanding of each other's perspectives. Credit goes to each one of the five coordinators for facilitating such a rich and substantive discussion. Let me emphasize here that the reports of the five subsidiary bodies have to be agreed by consensus before they can be presented to the Conference on Disarmament for consideration. Paragraph 5 of the decision contained in document CD/2119 makes that crystal clear. The aim of the subsidiary bodies' reports should be to accurately and faithfully reflect the wide-ranging discussions, whilst respecting the diversity of our respective positions. We have to remain mindful of each delegation's sensitivities, concerns and national security interests.

Let me conclude by reiterating my delegation's continued commitment to engaging constructively in the finalization of the reports of the five subsidiary bodies, as well as the Conference on Disarmament's annual report.

I thank you, Madam President.

The President: I thank the representative of Pakistan for his statement and for the kind words addressed to the presidency. I now give the floor to the representative of Kazakhstan, Her Excellency, Ms. Zhanar Aitzhanova.

Ms. Aitzhanova (Kazakhstan): Madam President, as this is the first time our delegation has taken the floor during your presidency, let me congratulate you upon the assumption of this important duty. I would like to assure you of our delegation's full support, in particular in finalizing the Conference on Disarmament's 2018 annual report. The draft report provides us with a good basis for further discussions.

In my brief intervention, let me recall General Assembly resolution 64/35 of 2009, in which 29 August was declared the International Day against Nuclear Tests. This resolution was adopted by consensus, on the initiative of Kazakhstan, to commemorate, under the auspices of the United Nations, the date of our historic decision to close the Semipalatinsk nuclear test site. Our initiative was undertaken in recognition of the efforts of all stakeholders, including civil society, public diplomacy and mass media, to promote awareness of the devastating consequences of nuclear explosions.

Over a period of more than 40 years, approximately 450 nuclear explosions took place in the eastern part of Kazakhstan. On 29 August 1991, President Nazarbayev, by the will of the people, made a historic decision to shut down the Semipalatinsk test site, and Kazakhstan voluntarily renounced the world's fourth biggest nuclear arsenal, which was inherited from the former Soviet Union. In commemoration of the International Day against Nuclear Tests, tomorrow, in Astana, the opening of an international conference of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO) on the theme "Remembering the past, looking to the future" will take place. The conference will bring together the Group of Eminent Persons and CTBTO Youth Group members, as well as

government representatives and students. In addition, on 6 September, in New York, a high-level plenary meeting dedicated to the International Day against Nuclear Tests will be organized. In this context, we would like to invite you to join us and watch the documentary "Where the Wind Blew", which will be screened today at 5 p.m. in Room XIV, the Kazakh Room. The event is organized together with the Office for Disarmament Affairs, the Geneva Disarmament Platform and the Centre for International Security Policy and with the participation of the director of the film, Mr. André Singer. We hope that the film will serve as a vivid demonstration of the disastrous consequences nuclear weapon tests could have for human health and the environment. We are also grateful to the Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, Michael Møller, for his support and personal involvement in the event. We look forward to seeing you all there.

The President: I thank the representative of Kazakhstan for her statement and for the kind words addressed to the President. Are there any delegations wishing to take the floor? I conclude that there are none.

As mentioned earlier, we will meet in an informal setting after the conclusion of this formal meeting. This concludes our business for today. We will announce the date of the next plenary in due time. This meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and sixty-eighth plenary meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Thursday, 30 August 2018, at 10.20 a.m.

President: Ms. Beliz Celasin Rende ..... (Turkey)

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The President: I call to order the one thousand four hundred and sixty-eighth plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament.

Distinguished colleagues, before we proceed, I would like to remind you that this morning we will continue with the informal plenary meeting to continue the work on the annual report. You have now received in your mailboxes the hard copy of the document, CD/WP 610, which has been issued in all official languages.

Before we move to an informal setting, would any delegation like to take the floor in a formal setting? I have the Republic of Korea on the list of speakers. Ambassador, you have the floor.

Mr. Kim Inchul (Republic of Korea): Thank you, Madam President. As this is the first time I have taken the floor during your presidency, I would like first to congratulate you on your assumption of the presidency. I wish you success in your efforts to produce a consensus report on our work, which is not an easy task at all. I assure you of my delegation's full support and cooperation and I also would like to express my delegation's gratitude to the five coordinators of the subsidiary bodies, who did a fantastic job in conducting our deliberations and drafting and finalizing the report.

Regarding the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament, which we have been considering since last week, my delegation has made its position clear during the bilateral consultations and on other occasions. As we all agree, it is most important to produce a consensus report on our work in order not to send a wrong message to the international community, and so that we do not fail to meet the expectations vested in us.

My delegation is of the view that your draft provides a solid basis which can be worked on to produce a consensus report. Again, I would like to reiterate that the report should be objective, like reports in previous years. During our formal and informal consultations this week, we have made a good progress up to now, except for a few elements that are related to the Syrian presidency and the report of the subsidiary bodies.

Regarding the matter of the Syrian presidency, my delegation fully shares the concerns raised by a number of member States considering the serious developments in Syria this year. Considering the extraordinary circumstances we have faced this year, we are of the view that the concerns raised by many during the sessions need to be duly reflected in the report in one way or the other. I hope that we can find the language of compromise which could find consensus. In this regard, my delegation would like to ask you again, Madam President, to make a last-ditch effort and use your good offices during the remaining days in order to work out the consensus language.

We also look forward to having a good outcome for the reports of the subsidiary bodies.

The President: I thank the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea for his statement. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor? This concludes our business for today. The next plenary meeting of the Conference will be held on Tuesday, 4 September 2018, at 10 a.m. We will now move to an informal plenary meeting to continue our work on the draft report.

The meeting rose at 10.25 a.m.

Conference on Disarmament

English

Final record of the one thousand four hundred and sixty-ninth plenary meeting
Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva, on Tuesday, 4 September 2018 at 10.15 a.m.

President: Ms. Beliz Celasin Rende ..... (Turkey)

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The President: Good morning. I call to order the 1469th plenary meeting of the Conference on Disarmament. Excellencies, dear colleagues, Ms. Kaspersen, ladies and gentlemen, as we announced in the previous plenaries, we would like to put subsidiary body reports up for adoption today. We have the morning and the afternoon sessions for our work.

The Conference has two more weeks in its 2018 session, and among other things the adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies will constitute a main step forward in finalization of its annual report.

Before we proceed, I would like to underline the enormous effort made by all member States to advance the work of the Conference since the beginning of its 2018 session. It has been essential to maintain the relevance of this Conference by commencing substantive work. Thus, the decision contained in document CD/2119, with the establishment of five subsidiary bodies, was an important step that the Conference took on 16 February. A great amount of effort has been made by all member States in the subsidiary bodies' work. In addition, the coordinators have made every endeavour to attain a successful outcome in the subsidiary bodies. Therefore, I would like to once again thank all Conference members and the coordinators of the subsidiary bodies for the hard work that they have put in so far.

Dear colleagues, paragraph 5 of CD/2119 reads: "The report on the progress achieved and agreed on in each subsidiary body would be submitted by its coordinator to the Conference on Disarmament, through the President, for adoption and due reflection in the annual report of the Conference on Disarmament." As paragraph 5 makes clear, the reports should be submitted to the Conference through the President for adoption and due reflection in the annual report. However, CD/2119 does not dictate the exact procedure for the adoption process relating to the subsidiary body reports. We have heard several opinions on and concerns about this adoption process at the bilateral and group meetings that we have held so far with the Conference members.

Furthermore, many delegations voiced their remarks on the adoption process during the discussions at the first reading of the draft annual report, last week. Therefore, since procedure precedes substance, we would like to ask the Conference for guidance on how to proceed in an informal setting. That being said, I would like to caution that this does not mean opening up subsidiary body reports for substantive discussion, which is not in the presidency's – and not in our – mandate.

Instead, it is our intention to focus in particular on how we will adopt these reports. As the President of the Conference, I am at your disposal to facilitate the discussion. I need the instructions of the Conference on how to adopt the subsidiary body reports. Once we decide how to proceed, we will switch back to the plenary meeting. We are in your hands.

Before we move to an informal setting, does any delegation wish to take the floor in a formal setting? Since there are no delegations wishing to take the floor, this concludes our business for this morning. We will now move to an informal plenary and work on the reports of the subsidiary bodies.

The meeting was suspended at 10.20 a.m. and resumed at 5.15 p.m.

The President: Ladies and gentlemen, this morning at the outset of the plenary we announced that our intention was to put subsidiary body reports up for adoption. It was also underlined that the decision contained in CD/2119, which established the subsidiary bodies, does not dictate the exact procedure for the adoption process relating to the subsidiary body reports. Therefore, since procedure precedes substance, we asked for guidance from the Conference in an informal setting.

The outcome of the informal discussions that took place this morning and at lunchtime was that the Conference could not agree on how to proceed with the adoption process. At this stage I am in the uncomfortable position of having to declare that the Conference was unable to take a procedural decision on how to adopt the subsidiary body reports. If we cannot overcome this, we will be obliged to reflect this in the annual report. I understand that delegations need further time.

I will close today's session if there is no request from the floor. May I ask for a list of speakers? We have China on our list. I give the floor to the representative of China.

Mr. Ji Haojun (China): Thank you, Madam President. We still have some 40 minutes before 6 p.m. and we can make good use of this time to work on the draft report of the Conference on Disarmament. We have a couple of paragraphs that are quite dear to some other delegations, and we need to go over these paragraphs anyway.

The President: Thank you for your comments. Any other delegations? The Russian Federation.

Mr. Deyneko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): Madame President, we would like to express our appreciation to you for holding informal consultations to make it possible to devise some means of adopting the reports of the subsidiary bodies in a manner acceptable to all. We can, alas, only note that the participants have been unable to come to an agreement on this question.

The Russian delegation showed a maximum of flexibility and did not object to the consideration of reports, despite the fact that the proposed way of proceeding goes beyond the framework established by the decision contained in CD/2119. Unfortunately, we did not see any reciprocity. The Russian comments about procedural questions were not heard. In this connection, we consider it necessary to once again at the plenary set out our position regarding the observance of the procedure established by the decision contained in CD/2119.

First of all, we would like to draw the attention of the Conference's participants to the fact that the coordinators of the five subsidiary bodies, in their letters, refer to paragraph 5 of document CD/2119. In that connection, they present, through the President of the Conference on Disarmament, their reports to the Conference for adoption of the corresponding decisions. For them to do so, they had to meet one condition: the report had to contain information on the progress achieved. The participants in the Conference may have various understandings of what constitutes progress. We believe that on this question, we must be guided by the mandate of the subsidiary bodies, as established in paragraph 1, subparagraphs (a) to (c), of document CD/2119. Incidentally, that is precisely how the reports on the fissile material cut-off treaty and on negative security assurances of the coordinators of subsidiary bodies 2 and 4 were structured. At the last minute, the coordinator of subsidiary body 2 overhauled the report, deleting an entire section on areas of commonalities. What is more, just today, the final report of subsidiary body 4 was unveiled. I will come back a bit later to the changes in the reports and the related work.

That is not the point of greatest importance. The most important point is that it was essential that the parts of the report on progress achieved should have been agreed upon in each of the subsidiary bodies. As the participants in the Conference know, not a single subsidiary body was able to meet this condition. That is my first point.

Secondly, we often heard that the reports of the subsidiary bodies need not be adopted by consensus. Those who supported such views argued that the meetings of the subsidiary bodies were informal. For our part, we would advise our colleagues to pay attention to paragraph 3, according to which the subsidiary bodies carry out their activities in accordance with paragraph 18 of the Conference's rules of procedure, which means on the basis of consensus, irrespective of the format of meetings. I would go further: today, a number of delegations, including those that set out their positions about the impossibility of adopting reports by consensus at informal meetings, have put forward a proposal to adopt the reports by consensus ad referendum. Where is the consistency in such an approach?

We must not forget another important fact. Even after the term of the subsidiary bodies had run out, their coordinators continued to work on the reports, making editorial and substantive changes. I would like to draw the attention of those present here to the fact that, not only were these alterations not agreed; they were not even discussed, i.e., the delegations were deprived of the basic democratic right to freely express their opinions. By the way, even if they had expressed them, the coordinators were not obliged to take them into account. That is in substance what happened with the proposals from the Indian delegation. And that is without even mentioning the fact that another basic principle of

multilateral diplomacy was ignored, specifically the principle of transparency. As far as we know, several interim versions of the reports were distributed, but certainly not to all delegations. That is a clear failure in the work of several individual coordinators.

There is yet another nuance of procedure that we cannot fail to take into account. I am referring to the accompanying letters from the President of the Conference, that essentially stated that the coordinators were presenting the reports on behalf of the subsidiary bodies. In our opinion, only the coordinators on nuclear disarmament and the prevention of an arms race in outer space are justified in presenting their outcome reports, on behalf of subsidiary bodies 1 and 3, respectively. As it is well known, the participants in those bodies agreed about the specific way of proceeding and agreed drafts of the outcome reports as conclusions. As for the rest, we consider that their presentation of reports on behalf of the subsidiary bodies is not only unjustified; it does not reflect the actual state of affairs. In this connection, if we follow the procedure to the letter, then it would be necessary to refrain from introducing such reports for adoption. We request the presidency to take this into account.

Incidentally, it is certainly not our intention to place all the responsibility on the shoulders of the coordinators. They did what they could. That the delegations were unable to arrive at a consensus was, alas, not their fault. However, we consider it unjustified to present the reports on behalf of the subsidiary bodies. In the light of the lack of agreement among the delegations, it would be more correct and proper to speak not of reports of the subsidiary bodies, but of reports of their coordinators, prepared in their personal capacity and under their own remit.

Of course all these problems could have been resolved if decision CD/2119 had provided for an option of consideration of the reports by the Conference itself. However, the document contains nothing of the sort, first of all because everything, right up until the agreement and adoption of the reports, was to be done by the subsidiary bodies. The Conference itself took an extremely limited role: either to endorse the conclusions reached by the subsidiary bodies, or to disagree. In either case, that would take place without a discussion of the essence of the reports in question.

The Russian delegation has every interest in the successful implementation of the decision contained in CD/2119, but not with a revision of its provisions. In the light of the lack of agreement both on the procedure and on the reports themselves, we propose that they should be put forward for adoption separately. Delegations will thus be able to set out their positions on the substance of the reports, either before their introduction for adoption, or after the fact. Thus, a balance will be guaranteed during the adoption of the reports. In this situation, we propose to move without delay to the adoption procedure for the reports of the subsidiary bodies, having given the delegations in question additional time to settle their disagreements.

The President: I thank the representative of the Russian Federation for his statement. Are there any other delegations wishing to take the floor?

I would now like to ask the Conference to take into consideration the remarks of the Russian Federation about proceeding with the adoption of the subsidiary body reports one by one. Are there any comments? Do any delegations wish to take the floor? I understand that there is consensus in the chamber regarding putting the subsidiary body reports to adoption one by one. That seems to be the case. Canada, you have the floor.

Mr. Davison (Canada): Thank you, Madam President. Just for clarification, you were asking us if we could agree at this point to proceeding with the adoption of the reports one by one, is that correct? We cannot agree to that at this time, I definitely will need some time overnight. Thank you.

The President: I thank the representative of Canada for his statement. Any other delegations wishing to take the floor? I now give the floor to the representative of Senegal.

Mr. Ndiaye (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): Thank you Madame President. My delegation would like to express its concern about the ability of the Conference on Disarmament, the unique framework for negotiation on disarmament matters, to fulfil its mandate. The Conference's plenary meetings this year, in 2018, run the risk of falling into

the same pattern of failure that we have seen for decades. After some valuable discussions in the subsidiary bodies set up by the decision contained in CD/2118 on 19 February 2018, a procedural problem has been used as a pretext. In actual fact, the citing of the procedural obstacle is just an attempt to hide the forest behind a tree. My delegation would thus like the actual causes of the obstacles encountered to be included in the 2018 annual report. Thank you.

The President: I thank the representative of Senegal for his statement. Are there any other delegations wishing to take the floor? The Russian Federation.

Mr. Deyneko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): I will be very brief, Madame President. We see no basis for our overall achievements to be taken hostage by disagreements between specific delegations on the particular points of one of the concluding reports of the subsidiary bodies.

The President: Thank you for your statement. Are there any other delegations wishing to take the floor? I see none. I note that we still need more time before proceeding with the adoption of the reports of the subsidiary bodies. This concludes our 1469th plenary this afternoon. We will meet again tomorrow afternoon at 3 p.m. in the Council Chamber. Thank you. This meeting is adjourned.

The meeting rose at 5.35 p.m.